REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending. Claims 4, 5, 11, 14, 18-30, 34, 41 and 44 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-2, 6-10, 13, 15-16, 31-32, 35-40, 43 and 72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0104030 to Igaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,251,136 to Guruwaiya. Claims 3 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Igaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,398 to Edwards. Claims 12 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Igaki in view of Guruwaiya and further in view of PCT Publication WO 01/87368 to Mehta. Claims 17 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Igaki in view of Guruwaiya and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,299,604 to Ragheb.

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-72 and have added new Claims 73-104 to clarify Applicants' invention. Independent Claim 73 recites a method of impregnating an intraluminal prosthesis with a pharmacological agent, comprising:

> immersing an intraluminal prosthesis in a mixture of a carrier fluid and a pharmacological agent, wherein the intraluminal prosthesis comprises polymeric material;
>
> pressurizing the mixture of carrier fluid and pharmacological agent for a time sufficient to cause the carrier fluid and pharmacological agent to at least partially penetrate the polymeric material;
>
> ***removing the pressure over a predetermined period of time and under controlled conditions such that the carrier fluid diffuses out of the polymeric material and the pharmacological agent becomes elutably trapped within the polymeric material in a predetermined concentration gradient, wherein the concentration gradient defines an elution profile of the pharmacological agent from the polymeric material when the intraluminal prosthesis is deployed within a body of a subject.***

Independent Claims 88 and 99 contain similar recitations.

Support for new independent Claims 73, 88 and 99 can be found on pages 16-17 of Applicants' specification. No new matter has been added.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest controlling the removal of pressure to produce a concentration gradient of a pharmacological agent in polymeric material and wherein the concentration gradient defines an elution profile of the pharmacological agent.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment, examination of the application, and allowance of the application, including Claims 73-104, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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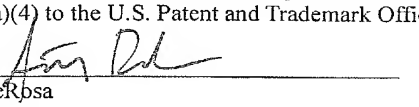

Anthony DeRosa
Date of Signature: June 20, 2007